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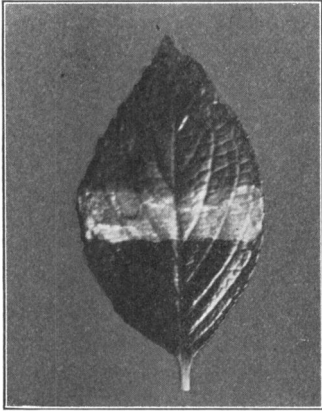
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to fasten the ends of the strips and another was inserted into the leaf to hold the cloth close to the leaf. The photograph, which was taken by Mr. Tilley shows that no starch was formed under the black strips.



PREVENTION OF PHOTOSYNTHESIS
IN HYDRANGEA.

It seems perfectly obvious that this experiment is free from the inaccuracy of Detmer's experiment which was pointed out by Miss Haug. The cloth, in many places, was not in contact with the leaves. Even assuming that diffusion did not take place through the meshes of the cloth, there were certain parts under the strips which must have been in conditions essentially similar to those outside the strips, excepting, of course, the factor of light. Since light is the only factor eliminated by the cloth strips, the experiment proves that the absence of light alone will prevent photosynthesis.

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BIRDS AND MISTLETOE: A CORRECTION

BY S. B. PARISH

In this journal for July, 1902 (2 : 105), the writer ventured to question whether the berries of the common mistletoe of his region, *Phoradendron flavescens*, were eaten by birds, and the seeds disseminated by their evacuations. This doubt was suggested by observing the undigested appearance of the seeds so abundantly adhering to twigs and other objects, at the season of ripening. Recently I happened on a note by the late Thomas Meehan, published in the *Botanical Gazette*, for February, 1882 (7 : 22), in which he expresses the same doubt, but founds it on a different premise. Mr. Meehan says :

"Birds do not seem to use the berries. As they are so viscid that the famous bird-lime is made from some species, it is probable that the very viscosity would prevent the free use of the beak in any attempt to use the seeds. But it is believed that by becoming attached to the feet or feathers of birds, the seeds are widely distributed, and that in this way the plant has all the advantage necessary for distribution in the struggle for life."

Nevertheless, birds do eat the berries of the mistletoe, and do distribute the seeds by their evacuations. The waxwing (*Ampelis cedrorum* Vieill.) and *Phainopepla* (*P. nitens* Swans.) are particularly fond of them. In North American Fauna (7: 113. 1863), Dr. A. K. Fisher makes the following record concerning the food of the *Phainopepla* in the Inyo County deserts: "A fine male was secured at the mouth of Surprise Cañon, April 23. Its stomach was filled with the berries of the mistletoe, which is a parasite on the mesquite. Several were seen at Resting Springs, about the middle of February, feeding on the same berries, which appear to be their principal food." The mistletoe here referred to must have been *Phoradendron Californicum* Nutt., which is common in the desert region on *Prosopis juliflora* DC. An ornithological friend informs me that he has shot the waxwing and the *Phainopepla* when they were so gorged with the berries that they extruded in handling.

A careful examination of the deposited seeds will show, in many cases, some sign that they have passed through the stomach of a bird — this is by no means always the case, and when the deposit is fresh, it is easily evident that very little of the viscid coating of the seed has been removed in the passage. It would appear that in digestion only the epidermis and little, if any, of the viscid matter, is utilized. This is a fortunate provision, for were this viscid coating digestible, the seeds would be freed from the very substance which serves to glue them to the bark on which they are to germinate. As it is, the passage through the stomach of the bird serves to remove the non-viscid epidermis, and leaves the sticky coating in a condition for performing its office.

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